



Message From Acting Director William P. Robertson

September is a big month in the world of emergency management. Our strength has been tested in the month of September, by way of terrorists on September 11, 2001. Our response capabilities tested by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017. Perhaps this is why September is National Preparedness Month.

In Illinois, September's IEMA Training Summit serves as a one-stop-shop for emergency and disaster preparedness. While we may represent difference response disciplines, we share a common vision and our goals are the same: To ensure Illinois is safe, secure and resilient against all hazards.

We respond to floods, fires, tornadoes, and other natural disasters. We work tirelessly to help our citizens prepare and always be ready. That's what makes the IEMA Training Summit great. Just like the goals of National Preparedness Month, the IEMA Training Summit aims to strengthen our emergency response protocols through careful preparation, planning, and training.

At this year's Training Summit, we have assembled countless breakout sessions that will provide invaluable hands-on training, thought provoking panel discussions, interactive presentations and must-see lectures on topical issues in our world today. These sessions are designed to offer professional growth that will help strengthen your emergency response protocols. The IEMA Training Summit also provides a unique networking opportunity for first responders and emergency personnel from around the state.

Preparedness is the cost of doing business is a post-9/11 world, so let's take this time to encourage all Illinoisans to be prepared for disasters and emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. Preparedness is the key to fiscal responsibility, and it is the best way to save time, money, resources and lives.



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IEMA Participates in Graded Exercise for LaSalle Nuclear Power Plant

The response plans for each of the six nuclear power plants in Illinois must be demonstrated through a FEMA-graded exercise every two years. On Tuesday, August 7, federal, state, local and utility representatives participated in the biennial exercise of the Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents (IPRA) plan for the LaSalle Station nuclear power plant. The exercise tested participating organizations' ability to effectively implement plans to ensure public health would be protected in the event of a radiological release from the nuclear power plant.

Owned and operated by Exelon Corporation, the LaSalle Station is located 75-miles southwest of Chicago. The facility has approximately 800 employees and provides power for more than 2.3 million homes in northern Illinois.

More than 300 people from various agencies and organizations participated in the full-scale exercise at several venues, including the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), the Radiological Emergency Assessment Center (REAC), IEMA's communications center, the Joint Information Center (JIC), the Unified Area Command (UAC), the Radiological Response Group (RRG), IEMA's Mobile Radiochemistry Laboratory, as well as emergency operations centers in Grundy, and LaSalle counties.

FEMA's draft report on the exercise will be available for review in the coming weeks. The next evaluated nuclear power plant exercise will be for the Quad Cities station on December 4, 2018.



(Right) The Unified Area Command (UAC) is activated at the Putnam County EMA Office with regional and district personnel from various state agencies to participate in the 2018 LaSalle Station exercise.



(Top) Director Robertson receives a briefing from Mark Hannant and the Radiological Response Group during the August 2018 LaSalle Station exercise.

ChicagoFIRST Hosts Tabletop Exercise: A Geomagnetic Storm

On August 15th, ChicagoFIRST facilitated a tactical tabletop exercise exploring the complexities of a joint public and private sector response to a Geomagnetic storm resulting in power outages, communication disruptions and public safety concerns. Representatives from Chicago area critical infrastructure firms and government partners from DHS, FEMA Region V, U.S. Treasury, Federal Reserve Bank, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Illinois National Guard, Cook County Homeland Security, Chicago Police and the Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications participated in this exercise.

Ed Fenelon, Chief Meteorologist of the National Weather Service in Chicago, opened the exercise with

an overview of Space Weather, including Geomagnetic storm science, forecasting capabilities and the potential outcomes of storms of varying strength. The exercise objectives included developing a common understanding of response and recovery capabilities; assessing critical information sharing; determining how public warning systems may be used; and identifying coordinated response efforts between government agencies and private sector.

ChicagoFIRST is a nonprofit association that provides critical firms a collaborative forum to address private sector resilience and emergency management planning and response with relevant local, regional, and national public sector agencies.

inside IEMA info corner

MONTHLY FEATURE

Damage Assessment

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency is introducing a new method of collecting damage assessments for individual assistance during a disaster. The Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) tool is designed to streamline the process of damage assessment set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by simplifying the data to determine both federal assistance and opportunities for mitigation. Now available online, IEMA provides two IDA forms for flood and non-flood damages which will assist local communities, municipalities and counties to easily submit and expedite assessments for homes and businesses.

"The forms themselves have not changed a lot, but some fields have been added to further clarify information collected," said IEMA IA Officer, Jason Williams. "It's important to note, this online tool will be the only acceptable method of damage assessment (DA) submission to IEMA moving forward as a way to streamline the collection process."

How it works:

- Damage assessment teams will still need to go door to door to attain DA information.
- Information can be collected via DA apps on a smart phone or tablet or entered into an excel spreadsheet
- Required data required can be found in the below IEMA link and is based off of FEMA's assessment matrix.
- Once the information is all collected for the area, the sheets will need collected and imported/submitted in the new DA online tool.
- A copy of all of the data will go to the individual who submitted it, the county EMA, the Regional Coordinator and the IEMA IA Officer.

The Damage Assessment forms are available on the following link:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/iema/localema/pages/damageassessmentforms.aspx>

The screenshot shows the IEMA website with the following content:

- IEMA** logo and navigation bar: Home, About, Preparedness, Mitigation, FAQs, Information, Laws & Regs, Contacts.
- Breadcrumb: Home > Local EMA Resources
- Disaster Impact and Damage Assessment Forms**
- Text: "The Initial Damage Assessment forms and accompanying instructions provided by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) can be accessed at the links below. The forms are to be used by local jurisdictions to document both Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA) damage information following a disaster. Please disregard all previous forms as these are the only forms that IEMA will accept. All comments and questions should be directed to your IEMA Regional Office."
- Impact Assessment Form**
 - The Disaster Impact Assessment Form is used to report impacts of the disaster on the local jurisdiction. This form must be submitted with your IA and PA damage assessment forms that document residential and business damages (IA) and/or Category A-G damages (PA).
 - [Disaster Impact Assessment Form](#)
- Individual Assistance Forms**
 - Initial Damage Assessment Flood
 - Initial Damage Assessment Non-Flood
- LOCAL EMA RESOURCES**
 - Citizen Corps
 - Disaster Declaration Process
 - Illinois Disaster Plans
 - Disaster Impact and Damage Assessment Forms**
 - Interoperable Communications
 - National Incident Management System (NIMS)
 - Public Assistance
 - SERC / Tier II Reporting
 - State Unified Procurement Program
 - Templates, Job Aids,

A red arrow points from the 'Individual Assistance Forms' section to the 'Initial Damage Assessment Flood' and 'Initial Damage Assessment Non-Flood' links.

Governor, Lt. Governor Praise Local Officials for Sharing Services, Saving Taxpayer Dollars

The Northwest Central Joint Emergency Management System was recently singled out by Governor Bruce Rauner and Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti as a shining example of local governments banding together to share services, equipment and expertise to increase government efficiency and save taxpayer dollars.

The Second Edition of the Journal of Local Government Shared Service Best Practices (Journal), published by the Lt. Governor's Office, promotes 20 top examples of ways public entities are working together to cut costs and reduce property taxes. Sanguinetti chaired the Governor's Task Force on Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates.

The Joint Emergency Management System is a cooperative effort by 10 communities to provide regional, shared emergency management services. As a result of the project, each community sees a cost savings of about \$50,000 a year. Collectively, all 10 municipalities are saving more than \$600,000 a year.

"We as the Joint Emergency Management System are

honored to receive this shared service best practice recognition. We hope that our program can serve as an example for other municipal or county entities both in the state of Illinois and across the country as another way of providing effective and efficient emergency management," said Mick Fleming, joint emergency management coordinator.

In total, 262 shared service examples were provided for best practice consideration. Out of those responses, 20 were selected to be published in the Journal.

"I commend these local leaders for finding innovative ways to deliver more efficient, effective, streamlined services for our taxpayers, and I encourage other local governments to follow their lead," said Lt. Governor Sanguinetti. "I will continue to fight for legislation to allow citizens the ability to control costs and consolidate units of government as they see fit."

The Journal of Local Government Shared Service Best Practices Second Edition is available online, and can be accessed through the Lt. Governor's website.

Illinois Hosts Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Road Show

IEMA's Division of Nuclear Safety recently participated in a unique traveling "road show" designed to further educate first responders and the public about the safeguards in place to protect our communities from radiological hazards.

A recent Department of Energy Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Road Show included stops in Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska along the shipping route from Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant located near Carlsbad, New Mexico. This Road Show provided an opportunity for the public to learn more about the rigorous WIPP transportation protocols designed to ensure the safe transport of transuranic waste.

WIPP is the nation's first deep-geologic repository for safely isolating transuranic waste, a byproduct of nuclear weapons research and production. Disposing of transuranic waste underground at WIPP protects

people and the environment. Since 1999, the Department of Energy has transported more than 12,000 shipments of transuranic waste to the facility, including 192 shipments from the Argonne National Laboratory. IEMA's role is to inspect and escort these shipments of radioactive material as they travel our highways.

Since WIPP began operating in 1999, DOE's transportation program has maintained an excellent safety record, attributable in large part to the strict driver qualifications; rigorous inspection requirements for trucks, trailers and packages; use of Type B containers certified by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC); and the close coordination and planning with states that go into preparing for these shipments.

A big thank you goes out to Joliet Junior College for hosting the 2018 Road Show.

IEMA to Unveil New Earthquake Awareness Tool at IEMA Training Summit

In 2017, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) unveiled the first-ever in the Midwest interactive earthquake kiosk. The kiosk was developed by a team of earthquake and digital media experts, including Dr. Harvey Henson from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and Scott Hodgson from the University of Oklahoma. Located in The Science Center of University Mall in Carbondale, this stationary kiosk was developed to help individuals learn how to reduce damage in their homes and prevent injuries during an earthquake.

Since then, IEMA and CUSEC have continued their collaboration to discover new ways of promoting earthquake preparedness to the citizens of Illinois. The stationary kiosk has undergone many updates since it was first unveiled to the public and now includes new content including videos, audio, animations and a new Virtual Reality (VR) feature. These improvements pale in comparison to the most significant development, which is the creation of a second kiosk which is now portable. The new



Check out the new mobile earthquake kiosk at the 2018 IEMA Training Summit, Sept 4-6 in downtown Springfield.

lightweight designed kiosk makes it easier to travel around the state to schools, civic engagements and community events to increase earthquake awareness and help Illinoisans learn more about the impacts an earthquake could have on their lives.

“We believe this mobile kiosk can be a key instrument in fueling earthquake awareness for years to come,” said Acting IEMA Director William Robertson. “The recent improvements made by CUSEC and SIU-Carbondale provide a more exciting way to improve the public’s understanding of earthquakes by showcasing realistic and engaging content for viewers.”

This new earthquake kiosk will be on display at the IEMA Summit at the Bank of Springfield Center on September 4-6 in downtown Springfield. For more information about the mobile kiosk, including arrangements for your next event, contact IEMA Earthquake Program Manager, Jason Williams at jason.b.williams@illinois.gov.

Help Continues for Northern Illinois Fire Victims

The Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, in conjunction with the American Red Cross of Chicago & Northern Illinois, set up a Volunteer Operations Center to assist victims of a devastating apartment fire in Prospect Heights on July 18th. As many as 1200 people were expected to utilize the services provided by the Volunteer Operations Center.

Our hats off to the kindness and generosity of the members of IEMA Region 4. Wendell Brewer and his team purchased several necessary items and donated them to the relief efforts at the Volunteer Operations Center.

Here’s how you can help: <https://www.prospect-heights.il.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=420>.



A Volunteer Operations Center was established to help the victims of a July 2018 fire in Prospect Heights.

IEMA Partners with St. Louis Cardinals to Promote Earthquake Preparedness

Some of the largest earthquakes to ever occur in the continental U.S. happened in 1811-12 along the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ) delivering a direct hit to southern Illinois. A similar earthquake today would cause widespread devastation to buildings, utilities, roads, bridges and other infrastructure, as well as result in many injuries and deaths.

Recognizing the earthquake risk in Illinois, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) along with its partners at the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC), are taking steps to increase preparedness through the Great American Shakeout earthquake drill, which will take place on October 18th at 10:18 a.m.

To help increase participation in this earthquake drill, specifically at the K-12 schools in southern Illinois, IEMA solicited the help of the St. Louis Cardinals mascot, Fredbird. Fredbird recently visited C.A. Henning School in the Triad School District to teach school children what to do in the event of an earthquake.

ShakeOut teaches participants to “Drop, Cover and Hold On” when they feel the ground shaking: “Drop” down to the floor, take “Cover” under a sturdy desk, table or other furniture, and “Hold On” to the furniture item and be prepared to move with it until the shaking ends.

ShakeOut began in 2008 in Southern California as a way to educate the public about how to protect themselves during an earthquake, and the earthquake drill is now held in 20 other regions both in the United States and around the world.

Look for Fredbird and the students of C.A. Henning in a new public service announcement that will hit airwaves and social media this October.

To learn more about the ShakeOut and earthquake preparedness visit www.ShakeOut.org.

Be sure to register your school, business or organization to participate on October 18th in the ShakeOut drill across the U.S.

At right, Fredbird and students from C.A. Henning Elementary School star in an upcoming public service announcement to encourage K-12 schools participation in the upcoming ShakeOut Earthquake Drill on October 18th.



Federal Mitigation Funding Availability

Local governments have the opportunity in the coming months to apply for federal mitigation funding. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has posted the fiscal year 2018 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) announcements for the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) competitive grant programs on www.grants.gov. These NOFOs provide an overview of the grant programs and details about FEMA's funding priorities and review process.

FMA grants are available to implement measures to reduce or eliminate risk of severe repetitive and repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). In FY18, \$160 million is available for FMA grants.

The PDM grant program aims to reduce overall risk to the population and structures through mitigation, while at the same time reducing reliance on federal funding

from Stafford Act disaster declarations. \$235.2 million is available for FY18 PDM grants. FEMA will use the majority of the PDM funding for mitigation projects, although mitigation planning is also an eligible cost.

FEMA will also offer a series of webinars in August and September on the FY18 NOFOs for prospective applicants, and tutorials on how to use the Mitigation eGrants system that is used to process grant applications. For the online portion, visit <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/nofo18/>. For the audio portion of the webinar, dial 1-800-320-4330 and enter conference code 338559.

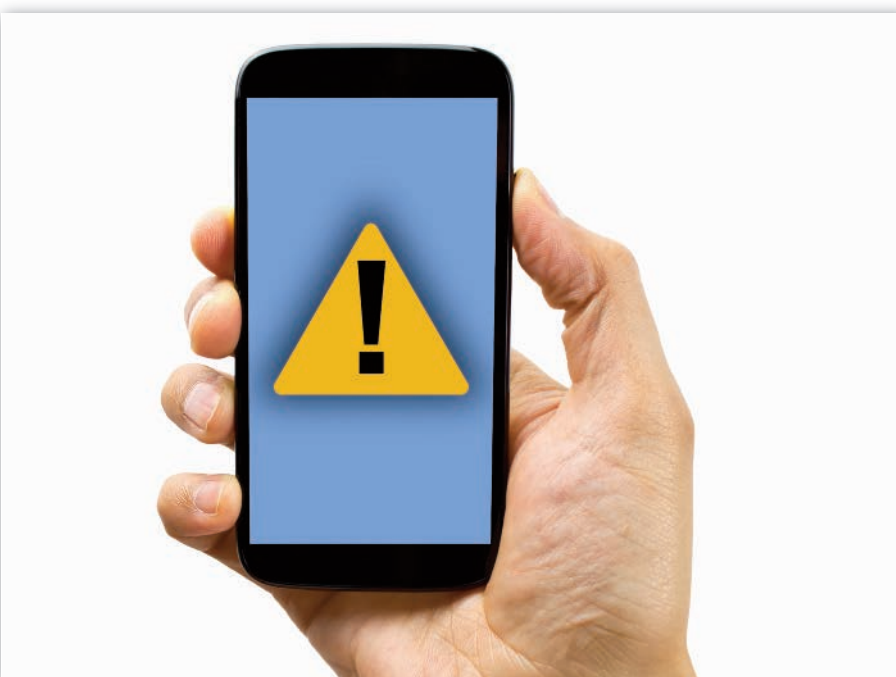
The opening date for applications is October 1, 2018. All applications must be submitted to IEMA no later than December 18, 2018. For additional information, please email Sam Al-Basha, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer, at sam.m.al-basha@illinois.gov.

This is a Test: National WEA & EAS Test Scheduled

A national alert test for both WEA (Wireless Emergency Alert) and EAS (Emergency Alert System) capabilities will take place on September 20th at 2:18 p.m. EST. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will issue a Nationwide Wireless Emergency Alert testing the Presidential WEA capabilities. The test message will be available to all compatible cell phones. The nationwide WEA test will be followed by a nationwide EAS test approximately two minutes later.

The alert will come across your phone titled, "Presidential Alert." The times and order of the tests are scheduled two minutes apart in order to minimize confusion. Once someone sees the "THIS IS A TEST" message on their mobile phone, it is likely they will turn to radio or television for confirmation. The goal is to have a unified voice in the test messaging to decrease the chances of public apprehension.

More information about this upcoming test can be found online: <https://www.fema.gov/news->



FEMA will conduct a national test of the Wireless Emergency Alert and Emergency Alert Systems on Sept 20th.

[release/2018/07/23/nationwide-test-emergency-alert-system-be-conducted-september-20-2018](https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2018/07/23/nationwide-test-emergency-alert-system-be-conducted-september-20-2018).

2018 IEMA Training Summit

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Historic Floods Featured at Illinois State Fair

In collaboration with the State Fair theme, Celebrate Illinois: 200 Years of Amazing, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency constructed a display for Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti's tent focusing on historical floods. This informative display was available for review at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield and Du Quoin State Fair in Du Quoin.

2018 marks the 25th anniversary of the Great Flood of 1993 along the Mississippi River, the 10th anniversary of major Mississippi River flooding in 2008, and the 5th anniversary of the major flooding along the Illinois and lower Mississippi rivers in 2013. Each flooding event severely impacted thousands of Illinoisans.

"While Illinois residents are at risk for many hazards, flooding is the most frequent and recovery is often very difficult for both residents and businesses," said acting IEMA Director William Robertson.

Following the 1993 flood, FEMA began making funding available to help states work with communities to buy frequently flooded properties and turn them into green spaces. Since that time, the state of Illinois has been a national leader in flood mitigation efforts, acquiring approximately 4,500 homes and other structures.

IEMA's state fair display recognizes these flood milestones as a way to promote awareness of what has been done to protect public safety, prevent repetitive flood damage to property, and help communities save time and resources as it relates to response and recovery efforts.



IEMA's state fair display included historical pictures from 1993, 2008 and 2013 floods, along with a mitigation success stories, and videos of the impact floods have had on Illinois over the years.



Lincoln Addresses Cyber Security Battle

History tells us that no two battles are alike. The tactics of cybercriminals are constantly evolving and that's why the Illinois Emergency Management Agency is encouraging safe practices while browsing the internet.

Radio and television spots are airing statewide as part of the Ready Illinois broadcast preparedness campaign, which is aired in cooperation with the Illinois Broadcasters Association (IBA) Public Education Partnership (PEP) program. The spots will air on more than 200 Illinois radio stations and more than 30 Illinois TV stations.

The spots feature Abraham Lincoln outside the White House reviewing his five step battle plan for the current cyber security war. Mr. Lincoln reminds viewers and listeners of the following steps:

- 1) If It's too good to be true, it probably is;
- 2) Hover your cursor over the links to determine the true web address;
- 3) Look for misspellings and poor grammar, which are warning signs of fraud;
- 4) Be suspicious of emails requesting urgent action;
- 5) Never give away sensitive personal information.

"The Illinois Broadcasters Association appreciates the continued partnership in educating Illinois citizens via our Public Education Program (PEP) allowing us to bring this latest campaign to radio and TV stations throughout Illinois," said Dennis Lyle, IBA President. "While the underlying messaging is always serious, we appreciate IEMA's willingness to allow these IBA-provided campaigns to incorporate an entertainment component to each allowing the campaigns to stand out among the many other public service-like campaigns often seen or heard on broadcast media."

Previous PEP program campaign recordings have featured actress Marion Ross of television's "Happy

Days" fame; TV and radio personality Steve Harvey; Alan Kalter, formerly of "The Late Show with David Letterman;" and TV spots written and/or produced by Illinois high school and college students.



New this Fall: Look for a new radio and television public service ad campaign starring Fritz Klein as Abraham Lincoln discussing the importance of Cyber Security awareness.

Previous issues of Inside IEMA are available at:
<http://www.illinois.gov/iema/Info/Pages/Newsletters.aspx>.



State of Illinois
Illinois Emergency Management Agency

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